

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 170520Z SEP 74 ZDK

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2239

USLO PEKING

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: LOCAL COMMUNIST PRESS TREATMENT OF REPORT OF CHOU OPERATION

REF: HONG KONG 10180

1. HONG KONG PRC -CONTROLLED PAPERS HAVE CARRIED VARIOUS VERSIONS OF NIGERIAN PRESIDENT GOWON'S SEPTEMBER 16 REMARKS TO THE PRESS RE PREMIER CHOU'S HEALTH. HSIN WAN PAO (SEPTEMBER 16), SISTER PAPER OF THE TA KUNG PAO, IN REPORTING THE TEXT OF GENERAL GOWON'S STATEMENTS INCLUDED THE PORTION WHICH SAID THE PREMIER HAD UNDERGONE AN OPERATION AND WAS RECOVERING NICELY. UNLIKE THE HONG KONG ENGLISH PRESS THE HSIN WAN PAO DID NOT SOURCE THE STATMENT TO CHINESE AUTHORITIES IN PEKING. HOWEVER, UNDER THE SAME HEADLINE, THE PAPER ALSO QUOTED THE REUTER'S REPORT ON THE GOWON PRESS RECEPTION AND REPEATED THE STORY OF THE CHOU OPERATION WITH THE ATTIBUTION TO "CHINESE AUTHORITIES".

2. WEN WEI PAO (SEPTEMBER 17) REPORTED THE GOWON PRESS

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RECEPTION REMARKS ABOUT THE CHOU OPERATION AND HIS RECOVERY BUT

DID NOT SOURCE CHINESE AUTHORITIES. TA KUNG PAO SAW FIT ONLY TO REPLAY THE REMARKS CONCERNING CHOU'S RECOVERY AND TO LEAVE OUT THE PART CONCERNING HIS OPERATION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TA KUNG PAO FELT THERE WAS NO NEED TO REPLAY THE STATEMENTS ON THE OPERATION SINCE THESE HAD ALREADY BEEN COVERED BY ITS EVENING VERSION.

3. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT MAINLAND BROADCASTS HAVE CARRIED THE GOWON REMARKS, THUS CONTINUING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN COVERAGE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PRC. THE VARIATION IN LOCAL COMMUNIST PRESS COVERAGE OF PRC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE LEADERSHIP, UNDERSCORES THE CAREFUL WAY THAT MATTERS RELATED TO SUCCESSION ARE BEING HANDLED HERE.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: cunninfx
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TAGS: PINT, CH, (CHOU EN-LAI)
To: STATE PEKING
Type: TE
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